(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to destroy the hideouts of the terrorists and their stock of arms located in PoK;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the terrorists have started sneaking into India through Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Though, there is no confirmed information regarding existence of arms/ ammunition dumps belonging to the militants in PoK, it has been reported that Pakistan ISI has resumed its assistance to the militants and many of the militants camps/training centres, which were closed or relocated to interior areas during July-August, 2002 have been reopened. Many of the launching detachments close to Line of Control/International Border, which had been shut down temporarily, have also been activated to ensure maximum infiltration of militants into Jammu & Kashmir before the onset of winter. Militants are issued arms and ammunition by the ISI before their infiltration.

(b) and (c) Adequate military measures have been taken to check terrorist infiltration from across Line of Control/International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, information regarding terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak Occupied Kashmir, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of diplomatic/global effort against international terrorism. As a result, most countries have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

(d) and (e) There are no confirmed reports to suggest such a move.

Coping with nuclear and terrorism disasters

2853. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been made in a recently held seminar "Disaster-Management and the Armed Forces" that India should train people to cope with nuclear and terrorism related disasters; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Army Headquarters and the Institution of Engineers (India), Delhi State Chapter conducted a one day Seminar on "Disaster Management and the Armed forces-A National Effort" on 11th September, 2002 at New Delhi.

The main theme of the Seminar related to engineering aspects of Disaster Management. The point regarding Nuclear Disaster came up only in passing. It was suggested that it was not enough to train the security forces alone, but the training must be spread down to the grass root level for disaster mitigation. The Government will give due consideration in consultation with Ministries concerned, to the recommendations of the Seminar as and when they are received.

Test-fired of HATF-IV missile by Pakistan

2854. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan recently test-fired a medium range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, HATF-IV;

(b) if so, whether these missiles carry warheads which could be nuclear, chemical and biological; and

(c) if so, what steps Government is taking to protect its armed forces and population from this type of warfare?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available, the missile is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and may have the capability to deliver other unconventional warheads also.

(c) Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes, as also possible threats from use of chemical and biological weapons, and remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.